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UFO experts pool facts at conference

By DICK LLOYD
Staff Writer

"If you were fascinated by 'Star Wars,' 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind' and 'E.T.,' why not step up to the real thing?"

That's what Jerry Hiers says is in store in Pasadena today and Sunday at the annual convention of UFO-ologists.

He doesn't anticipate a live sighting of an unidentified flying object, but the next best thing is on tap — a host of true believers reporting on the latest developments in the study of UFOs.

Hiers is spokesman for Mutual Unidentified Flying Objects Network, which is holding its 14th annual symposium at the Huntington Sheraton Hotel. Daylong sessions featuring UFO experts from across the country start at 9 a.m. both days. Cost varies from \$3 to \$7 per session.

"We all accept as fact that UFO's are a reality," said Hiers, a CPA. "And we're not cultists or anything like that."

He acknowledges that skepticism still haunts the UFO phenomenon, but he says evidence is too convincing to discount. "I haven't seen a UFO," he says, "but I know those who have. They know it wasn't an aircraft, helicopter or balloon."

From the physical standpoint, he said, many individuals have experienced radiation damage from encounters. "One boy got leukemia from being too close to the craft. Others experience burn marks; hair falls out, they lose weight and get psychologically disoriented. And when they calm down they have a different level of consciousness and don't look at the world the same way," Hiers said.

From his own research, he concludes, "something is going on out there."

While there haven't been many reported citings since a flurry in 1973, reports still come in, Hiers said.

The conference, titled "UFO — A Scientific Challenge," features a lineup of 15 speakers and aims to increase public understanding about the UFO phenomenon.

Helping to do that, Hiers said, will be such experts as:

— J. Allen Hynek, former chairman of the department of astronomy at Northwestern University in Chacago.

— Allen Holt, scientist with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

— Richard E. Haines, Ph.D. research scientist and author of "Observing UFOs."

— Thomas M. Gates, director of the Space Science Center at Foothill College, Sunnyvale.

Topics will include alleged government suppression of UFO evidence, examination of possible propulsion used in UFOs, psychological and physical effects that close encounters have on humans, accounts by witnesses, photos and other evidence of UFOs, reports of citings from aircraft, and others.

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UFO SYMPOSIUM Huntington Sheraton Hotel, Pasadena. Scientists, engineers and researchers will participate in the 14th annual MUFON (Mutual Unidentified Flying Objects Network) Symposium, July 1-3. Topics to be discussed include the UFO's possible derivation, propulsion methods, psychological/physiological effects on people, current California and international sightings and UFO crash retrieval reports. The sessions begin 7 p.m. July 1 and 9 a.m. July 2-3. Admission is \$23 at the door for all sessions and \$5 per session (\$7 for Saturday evening). For information call 557-3580.

St. Louis Globe June 15, 1983

Meteor lights up skies over St. Louis

A meteor flashed in the sky above the St. Louis area Tuesday, according to staff members of the McDonnell Planetarium in Forest Park.

"A bright fireball burned through the atmosphere and illuminated the sky and the surrounding area," said planetarium director Ronald R. Sutherland.

"It's possible that it was part of the meteor shower that occurs at this time of year from the constellation Hercules."

The meteor was seen about 1:10 a.m., Sutherland said. It shot across Indiana, Illinois, and the western corner of Kentucky but was visible in sections of southeast and eastern Missouri.

Seen only for a few seconds here, the meteor gave off a green color indicating it was composed of a mostly metallic substance, Sutherland said.

"Most meteors are as tiny as a pea or a bean," he said, "but this was more substantial — it gave off a fireball."

Sutherland said the meteor probably weighed several pounds.

R. J. Gurney

INFORMATION, DATA, COMMENTARY AND SPECULATION

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Are TV ads keeping real ETs away?

Paul Cerny, speaker at the 14th annual Mutual UFO Network, Inc., (MUFON) Symposium in Pasadena yesterday, said it: "There's a reason UFOs don't land on earth. The extra-terrestrials are watching our TV commercials and they have learned about humans. We suffer from many ills — headaches, colds and the like."

Cerny was among a number of researchers investigating the phenomenon of unidentified flying objects. The headliners included J. Allen Hynek, Ph.D., Evanston, Ill., scientific director for the Center for UFO Studies and author of "The Hynek Report," speaking on "The Case Against ET"; William M. Moore, co-author of "The Roswell Incident," on "UFOs: Uncovering The Ultimate Answer"; and Ann Druffel, Pasadena, Associate Editor of MUFON UFO Journal, on "Southern California's Straight Line Mystery in UFO sightings."

Today's speakers include Peter A. Jordan on "Cattle Mutilations and the Imagined Culprits: A Psychological Perspective" and Richard M. Neal, "Close Encounters — Accounts by Witnesses."

Cerny offered arguments on "The Continuing UFO Deception and Confusion Syndrome." He spoke disparagingly of what he saw as the far-out faction — the UFO crackpots who say visitors from outer space have come to save us from ourselves, from disease and to bestow peace on earth, often as a way to make money.

"The disbeliever, the 'debunker buff' is at the other end of the spectrum. He discredits researchers with flimsy and absurd explanations," Cerny stated.

He charged the federal government, particularly the U.S. Air Force, with keeping information from the public and with confiscation of pictures as a part of its Project Bluebook. "Since position and attitudes of government and debunkers so often dovetail, some wonder if the connection might be more financial than coincidental," he added.

Others gave their own views on UFOs:

Ms. Druffel said that studies of UFO observations showed sightings to be in straight lines and in association with four American Indian sacred places in Southern California: Tahquitz Rock near Idylewild, Eagle Rock, Stony Point at Chatsworth and nearby Castle Rock.

Joanne Cusack of Tucson, Ariz., a specialist in Kirlian photography, said she is interviewing and photographing two area residents who have been psychologically regressed to a point in their lives when they were said to have been transported in a UFO. The Kirlian process, according to Ms. Cusack, shows that "colors and patterns imprinted on the film have definite meanings." She correlates the mental, physical and emotional states of a person with the colors.

Lockheed's research available to small firms

Small business owners now have access to one of the nation's top aerospace testing laboratories for research into composite and metalworking questions.

Lockheed-California Co., a division of Lockheed Aerospace Corp., announced in June that its premier research laboratory at Rye Canyon near Los Angeles will offer its research capabilities to small firms.

The small entrepreneur can use the research center on a "cash-and-carry" basis. Specific charges for tests depend on the type of equipment employed. Fees start at \$75 an hour.

Among the services offered to outside firms and individuals are macro-photography, static and fatigue testing, energy dispersive X-ray analysis and technical consultation.

The center has worked on numerous Federal contracts and research programs. A recent example of work done for the private sector was determining the growth rate of a crack in a metal part. A scientist, Wendell Renslen, utilized a controllable testing machine to monitor the rate of failure in the part. Such data can be utilized in predicting the service life of a manufactured product.

In other recent examples, company personnel helped a small paint company show that the chemical composition of a new pigment was unique enough to qualify for a patent. In another, the center helped an attorney prove that the turquoise stone his client purchased was not genuine.

The center recently was renamed the Kelly Johnson Research and Development Center by Lockheed. Mr. Johnson, a senior adviser to Lockheed for 50 years, helped develop and design such aircraft as the SR-71 for government intelligence work.

He also designed the F-104, and the YF-12A, a precursor of the SR-71. Mr.

LOOK, UP IN THE SKY: Latest joke heard going around Indianapolis Motor Speedway goes something like this: Hey, didya hear about the UFO sighted at Indy? Yeah, someone saw the sun.

Johnson was enshrined in the Aviation Hall of Fame in 1974 and has received numerous awards for his aviation work, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the National Medal of Science.

He founded the research laboratory, which now encompasses 16 buildings on a 500-acre site. It includes a supersonic wind tunnel, an aerospace environments laboratory and a rotorcraft facility. Some 400 engineers, researchers and scientists work at the complex.

IRON AGE, June 24, 1983

TWO Mexican college students, eager to make extraterrestrial tourists feel welcome, have strung up 300 colored lights for a mountain airstrip. Now they're soliciting donations for a hotel for outer space visitors, too.

UFO enthusiasts Jose Maria Echeveria and Emilio Bustamante Ortiz drive around Agua Prieta, just across the Arizona border, seeking donations for the "Celestial Airport."

"We want to make it clear to the whole world that Mexico is ready for space tourists," Bustamante said. "We have positive proof that spacemen have already come to Mexico to help feed us all."

—St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Sunday, June 19, 1983